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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

4988

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/1763635

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO
PCT/EP00/05532

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
15 June 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED -
16 July 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

METHOD AND AUXILIARY DEVICE FOR LEASING THREADS INTO GUIDE ELEMENTS OF A HANDLING DEVICE...

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO US

BERG et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information

1. This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest-claimed priority date.
5. A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. have not been made and will not be made.
8. A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. A FIRST preliminary amendment.
 A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14. A substitute specification.
15. A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. Other items or information:

SPECIFICATION NO. <i>09/763635</i>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/EP00/05532	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <i>4988</i>																																
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)):</p> <p>Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) \$690.00</p> <p>No international preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but international search fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) \$760.00</p> <p>Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$1000.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4) \$100.00</p>		CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY <hr/> <p>ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT = \$ <i>860.00</i></p> <hr/> <p>Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)). \$. . .</p> <hr/> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>CLAIMS</th> <th>NUMBER FILED</th> <th>NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th>RATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>18 - 20 =</td> <td>Ø</td> <td>X \$18.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent claims</td> <td>3 - 3 =</td> <td>Ø</td> <td>X \$80.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)</td> <td colspan="2">\$270.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td colspan="2">TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ <i>860.00</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <hr/> <p>Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28). \$. . .</p> <hr/> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">SUBTOTAL = \$ <i>860.00</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). + \$. . .</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ <i>860.00</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property + \$. . .</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ <i>860.00</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Amount to be: refunded \$. . . charged \$. . .</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <hr/> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ <i>860.00</i> to cover the above fees is enclosed.</p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. <i>19-2110</i>. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: Charles W. Fallow Shoemaker and Mattare, Ltd. 2001 Jefferson Davis Highway - Suite 1203 Arlington, Virginia 22202 703/415-0810</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Charles W. Fallow</i> SIGNATURE NAME _____ <i>Charles W. Fallow</i> NAME _____ <i>28,946</i> REGISTRATION NUMBER _____</p>	CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	Total claims	18 - 20 =	Ø	X \$18.00	Independent claims	3 - 3 =	Ø	X \$80.00	MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)		\$270.00				TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = \$ <i>860.00</i>		SUBTOTAL = \$ <i>860.00</i>		Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). + \$. . .		TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$ <i>860.00</i>		Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property + \$. . .		TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$ <i>860.00</i>		Amount to be: refunded \$. . . charged \$. . .	
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09/763635
JC08 Rec'd PCT/PTO 08 MAR 2001
Docket No. 4988

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Berg et al.

Serial No. not yet assigned

Filed: March 8, 2001

Title: Method and Auxiliary Device for Leasing Threads into Guide Elements of a Handling Device for Handling Threads and a Handling Device of This Type

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-18 and insert new claims 19-36.

--19. A method for leasing threads into elements of a treatment device for treating the threads such as into combs or reeds of a sizing installation, comprising the steps of
leasing the threads into at least one leasing comb
fastening the threads onto said comb
subsequently pulling the threads with the leasing comb through the treatment device,
whereby the threads are transferred to the guide elements.

20. A method according to claim 19, where in the leasing comb is pulled in steps through the device,

whereby the movement of the leasing comb in each case after passing a guide element is temporarily interrupted and

wherein the leasing comb is positioned with respect to the guide element before the threads are transferred to the guide element.

21. A method according to claim 19, comprising the further step of removing the guide elements out of a path formed for the threads in the treatment device, prior to leasing and moving back the guide elements after passing the leasing comb into the path of the threads, whereby the threads are taken up by the guide elements.
22. A method according to claim 19, with a leasing comb which comprises leasing interstices for receiving the threads, whose arrangement corresponds to the arrangement of interstices in the guide elements, and which is provided with aligning projections which are in alignment with the leasing interstices, comprising the step of aligning the leasing comb to the guide elements such that the aligning projections of the leasing comb may be brought into engagement with the interstices of the guide elements.
23. A method according to claim 21, comprising the further step of pushing the interstices of the guide elements over the aligning projections when the guide elements are moved back into the path for the threads.
24. A method according to claim 19, comprising the further steps of fastening the leasing comb on residual threads from a preceding treatment procedure and pulling the comb with these residual threads through the treatment device.
25. An auxiliary device for leasing threads, such as warp threads, into guide elements of a device for treating the threads, such as into combs or reeds of a sizing installation, wherein the auxiliary device is formed as a leasing comb comprising an arrangement for the ordered fastening of the threads on the leasing comb.
26. An auxiliary device according to claim 25, wherein the leasing comb is provided with a plurality of leasing interstices arranged next to one another, for receiving the threads.
27. An auxiliary device according to claim 25, wherein the leasing comb has aligning elements for aligning the leasing comb onto the guide elements.
28. An auxiliary device according to claim 27, where said aligning elements are designed as aligning projections which are aligned onto leasing interstices, preferably extend from these and which may be brought into engagement with interstices in the guide elements.

29. An auxiliary device according to claim 27, wherein the leasing comb is designed as a stack of platelets,

wherein first platelets are arranged at a distance to one another thereby forming leasing interstices and

wherein second platelets are arranged as distancers between said first platelets.

30. An auxiliary device according to claim 29, wherein said second platelets form a rest surface for threads in the leasing interstices.

31. An auxiliary device according to claim 29, wherein the second platelets have projections serving as aligning elements.

32. An auxiliary device according to claim 25, wherein the leasing comb has holding elements for the temporary receiving and holding of the leasing comb in receiving devices allocated to the guide elements.

33. A treatment device for treating threads, such as for sizing warp threads,

comprising at least one guide element, such as a comb or a reed, through which the threads may be guided,

wherein to the device there is allocated at least one leasing comb, on which the threads are fastenable in an ordered manner and from which the threads may be transferred by said guide elements.

34. A device according to claim 33, wherein said guide elements there is allocated at least in each case one receiving device for the temporary holding of said leasing comb.

35. A device according to claim 33, wherein said guide elements are movable out of the formed path for the threads.

36. A device according to claim 33, wherein the device has at least two mounts for receiving warp beams,

wherein the threads of at least one mount are leasable into a leasing comb,
whilst the threads of another mount are guidable through the device.--.

REMARKS

In removing or reducing the multiple dependency, we are not admitting unpatentability of any deleted combination or sub-combination, and reserve the right to change the claim dependency during prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Fallow
Reg. No. 28,946

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March 8, 2001

PCT US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADE MARK OFFICE

VERIFICATION OF TRANSLATION

I, the below named translator, hereby declare that:

My name and post office address are as stated below;

That I am knowledgeable in the English language and in the language in which the below identified International Application was filed, and that I believe the English translation of the International Application No. PCT/EP00/05532 is a true and complete translation of the above identified International Application as filed (and of the amendments under Article 34 PCT/Annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report, if any).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that wilful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such wilful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 27th February 2001

Full name of the translator: Mark Neill

Signature of the translator:

Post Office Address: Brahmssstrasse 20/0
23556 Lübeck, Germany

091763635

PTO/PCT Rec'd 12 APR 2002

Method and auxiliary device for leasing threads into guide elements of a handling device for handling threads and a handling device of this type

The invention relates to a method and an auxiliary device for leasing threads into guide elements of a treatment device for treating threads, as well as to such a treatment device with the features of the preamble of the independent patent claims.

In preparation for the weaving mill individual threads in warps are led through treatment devices which for example may serve for treating the threads, but also for sectional warping or beaming. A typical treatment of warp threads is the sizing.

Such treatment devices are usually provided with guide elements in which the threads are guided. On sizing, for example up to 16,000 threads may be treated simultaneously. With this e.g. up to 16 threads are guided into 1,000 interstices lying next to one another of such a guide element. Guide elements are for example combs or reeds.

If (for example with the sizing procedure) the warp beams with the threads to be treated are empty, these must be replaced by complete warp beams. This means that the thread of the new warp beams must be individually guided through the guide elements. This procedure is also described as leasing. The leasing of for example up to 16,000 warp threads into several guide elements arranged next to one another is time-consuming and may take up to 6 hours. In this time the installation is out of action and no productive operation of the device is possible.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to avoid the disadvantages of that which is known, in particular to provide a method and an auxiliary device for leasing threads, which permit a rapid and secure leasing of the threads into one or several guide elements of a device for treating the threads. The method and the auxiliary device should furthermore ensure that the threads in an ordered manner may be leased into the guide elements, that in particular no crossovers take place. A further object of the invention lies in providing a treatment device with guide elements which permits a simple and rapid leasing of thread into guide elements. The method and the auxiliary device according to the invention should furthermore be able in a simple manner to be carried out and manufacturable respectively and able to be used with existing treatment devices without great modifications.

According to the invention these objects are achieved with a method, with an auxiliary device and with a device, with the features of the characterising part of the independent patent claims.

The method serves for leasing threads into guide elements of a treatment device for treating the threads. In particular the method for leasing warp threads may be applied for example in a sizing installation. The guide elements are for example combs or reeds of such a sizing installation.

For leasing the threads these are leased into at least one leasing comb and fastened on this. Subsequently the threads with the leasing comb are pulled through the treatment device. With this the threads are taken up by the guide elements.

The leasing comb forms an auxiliary device for leasing the threads. It is sufficient to lease the threads in the leasing comb once and to fasten these on the leasing comb. With this the position of the threads is exactly defined. If the leasing comb is pulled through the treatment device the individual threads without great effort on account of their ordered position may be directly introduced into the guide elements.

In a preferred embodiment example of the method the leasing comb is led through the treatment device. The movement of the leasing comb is in each case interrupted as soon as the leasing comb has passed a guide element. The leasing comb is positioned in relation to the guide element, before the threads are taken up by the guide element. The threads are thus pulled by the leasing comb over the guide element. Thereafter the movement of the threads is interrupted and the threads may be introduced into the guide elements.

In a further preferred embodiment example the guide elements before the leasing are removed from the path formed for the threads in the treatment device. Typically the guide elements in the treatment device may be lowered or raised. After passing the leasing comb the guide elements are again moved back into the path for the threads. With this the threads are taken up by the guide elements.

The method may be advantageously applied with a leasing comb which comprises leasing interstices for receiving the threads. The arrangement of the leasing interstices

corresponds to the arrangement of interstices in the guide elements. The leasing comb may furthermore be provided with aligning projections which extend away from the leasing interstices. With the method according to the invention the leasing comb is aligned with regard to the guide elements in that the aligning projections are brought into engagement with the interstices of the guide elements. The aligning projections ensure that the leasing interstices of the leasing comb are in alignment with the interstices of the guide elements. The threads may thus be securely and simply transferred.

The alignment may be effected particularly simply when with the moving back of the guide elements their interstices are pushed over the aligning projections.

The leasing comb may be particularly simply moved through the treatment device in that the comb is fastened on the residual threads from a preceding treatment procedure and is pulled with the residual threads through the device.

The auxiliary device according to the invention, for leasing threads, for example warp threads, into guide elements of a treatment device for treating the threads is particularly advantageous for carrying out the mentioned method. The auxiliary device is designed as a leasing comb which comprises an arrangement for the ordered fastening of the threads.

The leasing comb is preferably provided with a multitude of leasing interstices arranged next to one another. The leasing interstices serve for receiving the threads. The arrangement of the leasing interstices is with this matched to the arrangement of the interstices in the guide elements. With this the transfer of the threads from the leasing interstices of the leasing comb into the interstices of the guide elements is possible in an ordered manner.

The leasing comb is furthermore advantageously provided with aligning elements for aligning the leasing comb with respect to the guide elements. With this it is ensured that not only is the relative position of the threads to one another defined but also their position in relation to the guide elements.

The aligning elements are typically designed as aligning projections. The aligning projections extend preferably from the leasing interstices and may be brought into engagement with the interstices in the guide elements. With a leasing comb aligned with respect to the guide

elements the aligning projections, the leasing interstices in the leasing comb and the interstices are in alignment with one another.

Particularly advantageously the leasing comb is designed as a stack of platelets. With this first platelets are arranged at a distance to one another for forming the leasing interstices. Second platelets serve as distancers and are arranged between the first platelets. The second platelets furthermore advantageously form a rest surface for the threads in the leasing interstices. The second platelets may furthermore be provided with projections which serve as aligning elements. With projections designed in such a manner it is automatically achieved that the projections are in alignment with the leasing interstices. Because the thickness of the distancers, that is to say of the second platelets, corresponds to the width of the leasing interstices and thus is adapted to the width of the interstices in the guide elements, the second platelets with their projections may be particularly simply introduced into the interstices of the guide elements. For the simplified introduction the projections may furthermore comprise tapering lugs.

The leasing comb may furthermore be provided with holding elements which serve the temporary receiving and holding of the leasing comb in receiving devices allocated to the guide elements.

Alternatively it is also conceivable to design the leasing comb as one piece and to incorporate the leasing interstices by way of suitable material treatment for example milling or eroding. The aligning projections may with this be formed by disklets inserted into the leasing interstices. The disklets may be grouped together with one another into a comb.

Instead of removing the guide elements out of the path for the threads it is also conceivable to not move the guide organs and instead of this to move and thus align the leasing comb with respect to the guide elements for transferring the threads.

The treatment device according to the invention for treating threads is characterised in that to the treatment device there is allocated at least one leasing comb. The leasing comb may in particular be designed in the described way and manner. On the leasing comb the threads are fastenable in an ordered manner. The threads may be taken up by guide elements in the treatment device from the leasing comb.

Advantageously to the guide elements there is allocated at least one receiving device for the temporary holding of the leasing comb. As soon as the leasing comb has passed the guide elements, the movement of the leasing cam is interrupted and this may by way of holding elements be held exactly positioned in the receiving device.

This arrangement is particularly advantageous when the guide elements are designed movable out of the path for the threads formed in the treatment device. Typically the guide elements are lowerable or raisable.

This arrangement has the advantage that the leasing comb may be pulled through the treatment device until it meets a receiving device. The guide elements moved away from the path for the threads do not disturb the movement of the leasing comb. As soon as the leasing comb is positioned in the receiving device the guide elements are again moved into the path for the threads. With this the threads are automatically correctly introduced into the guide elements.

The device according to the invention is particularly advantageous when it comprises several mounts for receiving the threads to be treated, in particular several mounts for warp beams. The threads from at least one mount may with this be leased into a leasing comb whilst the threads of another mount may be led through the treatment device and at the same time be treated. The standstill times of such a treatment device are thus reduced.

The invention is hereinafter described in more detail by way of the drawings and in embodiment examples. There are shown in:

Figure 1 a schematic representation of a device according to the invention in a lateral view,

Figure 2 a plan view of the device according to Figure 1,

Figure 3 a perspective representation of an auxiliary device according to the invention,

Figures 4a and 4b a lateral view of two embodiment examples in an auxiliary device,

Figure 5 a perspective representation of the take-up of the threads, in a lateral view,

Figure 7 a perspective representation of an alternative embodiment example of an auxiliary device and

Figure 8 a plan view of a cut-out of an auxiliary device on transferring the threads.

In Figure 1 there is schematically shown a treatment device 1, with which the method according to the invention and the auxiliary device according to the invention may be applied. The treatment device 1 serves for sizing threads F. The threads are held on warp beams in a mount 5 and from these led to the device 1. The device 1 comprises a sizing device 6, a dryer 7 connecting thereto and a beaming machine 8 for winding the treated threads F. The threads F are continuously conveyed through the treatment device 1, that is to say from the mount 5 to the beaming machine 8.

Figure 2 shows a plan view of the device 1 according to Figure 1. The threads F are led from the mount 5 through the sizing device 6, the dryer 7 and via deflection arrangements not described in more detail to the beaming machine 8. With this simultaneously a thread warp of about 1,000 times 16 threads are treated. On each of the warp beams held in the mount 5 there are located 1,000 threads.

For leading the threads F in the device 1 this is provided with various guide elements 2. The guide elements 2 are designed as combs or reeds through which the threads are led.

Next to the mount 5 there is arranged a further auxiliary mount 5' which likewise contains 16 warp beams each @ 1,000 threads.

Whilst the mount 5 is located in a position P1, the threads F are treated. Simultaneously it is possible to lease the threads of the mount 5' in the position P2 into a schematically shown leasing comb 11.

Thanks to the additional mount 5' and the leasing combs 11 it is possible in the position P2 to fasten the threads F' on the leasing comb 11 in an ordered manner, whilst the threads F of the mount 5 located in the position P1 are still treated. As soon as the warp beams on the mount 5 are empty the mount 5 is displaced into the position P3 and replaced by the mount 5'. The mount 5' is with this displaced from the position P2 to P1. The threads of the now full warp beam

may simply be leased into the guide elements 2 of the treatment device 1 in that they by way of the leasing comb 11 are pulled in the direction A through the treatment device 1. At each guide element 2 the leasing comb 11 is aligned with respect to the guide element 22 and the threads F connected to the leasing comb 11 are transferred to the guide element 2, which means leased into this. In this context leasing is to be understood as the leading-through of the threads F through the openings or interstices of the guide elements 2.

Figure 3 shows in a perspective representation a leasing comb 11. The leasing comb 11 consists of a stack 16 of thin platelets. First platelets 17 are arranged next to one another at a distance a to one another. Between the first platelets 17 there are arranged second platelets 18 which define the distance a. The distance a forms leasing interstices between the first platelets 17.

The platelets 17, 18 are provided with bores 24 through which a holding-together device, for example a pin or clamping device may be led in order to hold the stack 16 together.

The leasing comb 11 is furthermore provided with a clamping device 15 which may be pressed against a surface formed together by the first platelets 17 and the second platelets 18.

Before threads F of a new warp beam are led through the device 1 they are leased into the leasing comb 11. For this the threads F are led through the leasing interstices 13 of the leasing comb 11. For representational reasons there is shown only a small number of threads. Usually in each leasing interstice 13 there are leased in each case up to 16 threads. The threads F run over the rest surface 19 formed by the surface of the second platelets 18 and over the surface 26 formed together by the first platelets 17 and the second platelets 19. By pressing the threads F with the clamping device 15 against the surface 26 the threads F are fixed on the leasing comb 11. The fixing is with this ordered since the threads F are led through the leasing interstices 13.

The leasing comb is furthermore provided with bores 25 through which pins 23, 23a may be inserted. The pins 23 prevent the threads F themselves from coming out of the leasing interstices 13. The pin 23a permits the fastening of the ends of the threads F.

The leasing comb 11 is furthermore provided with a further bore 22 through which a further pin 23b is insertable on which residual threads R are fastenable. The residual threads R

may be threads from a preceding treatment procedure. The leasing comb 11 is subsequently pulled through the device 1 with the residual thread R.

Figures 4a and 4b show various embodiment examples of a leasing comb 11 in a lateral view.

The leasing combs 11 are in the manner shown in Figure 3 constructed of a stack of platelets 17, 18. According to the embodiment example in Figure 4a the platelets comprise openings which form a hollow space 21. The platelets 17, 18 may be held together in that the hollow space is bushed. In the embodiment example according to Figure 4b suitable fastening means are introduced into the bores 24 in order to hold together the platelets 17, 18. Otherwise the leasing combs of Figure 4a and Figure 4b do not differ.

The threads F via an aligning projection 14 and via a rest surface 19 of the second platelets 18 are led through the leasing interstices 13 between the first platelets 17. The aligning projections 14 serve for aligning the leasing comb with respect to the guide elements 2 (see Figures 5, 6 and 8).

The clamping device 15 is shown schematically as a pivotable lever which presses a clamping element 27 against the surface 26. Of course other fastening possibilities such as knotting or winding round are also conceivable.

In the region of the surface 26 the upper edges of the first platelets 17 and of the second platelets 18 are aligned to one another so that a closed surface is formed. Outside the surface 26 the platelets 17 project beyond the rest surface 19 of the platelets 18 so that between the platelets 17 there are formed the leasing interstices 13.

For leasing the threads F through the treatment device 1 as shown in the Figures 3, 4a or 4b firstly the thread warp is leased into the leasing comb. Subsequently the leasing comb 11 with the residual threads R is pulled through the treatment device 1. As soon as the leasing comb 11 has passed a guide element 2 the movement of the leasing comb 11 is temporarily interrupted. Figure 5 shows the leasing comb 11 in such a rest position P. The rest position P with respect to the movement direction A lies after the guide element 2. The guide element 2 consists of a multitude of lamellae arranged next to one another, between which interstices 3 are formed. For

leasing the threads F into the interstices 3 the leasing comb 11 is aligned with respect to the guide elements 2. For this the aligning projections 14 are brought into engagement with the interstices 3 of the guide elements. With this the guide elements 2, the leasing interstices 13 of the leasing comb 11 and the second platelets 18 are aligned to one another. Likewise the first platelets 17 are in alignment with the lamellae of the guide element 2. The threads F held between the first platelets 17 in the leasing interstices 13 are thus automatically leased into the interstices 3. As soon as the engagement between the aligning projections and the interstices 3, which is shown in Figure 5, has been created, the threads F are leased and the leasing comb 11 may be moved in direction A further to a subsequent guide element 2. At the subsequent guide element 2 again the procedure shown in Figure 5 is repeated.

In Figures 6a to 6c the transfer procedure is shown schematically in a lateral view.

Usually the guide elements 2 are located in the position shown dashed in Figure 6a. The guide elements 2 lie with this in the path W formed for the threads F. According to Figure 6a the guide elements 2 are removed from the path W for the threads F.

The threads F are pulled with the leasing comb 11 in the direction A through the device

1. The guide elements 2 are designed lowerable and before the leasing procedure are lowered. Alternatively it would also be conceivable to raise the guide elements 2 or to leave the guide elements 2 stationary and to lower or raise the leasing comb 11 for leasing the threads F into the guide elements 2.

The leasing comb 11 is pulled with the residual threads R.

As soon as the leasing comb 11 has passed the guide elements 2 in the direction A (see Figure 6b) the movement of the leasing comb 11 is temporarily interrupted. For this the leasing comb 11 is provided with holding elements 20 which may be brought into engagement with a receiving device 4 allocated to the guide element 2. The receiving device 4 permits a positioned holding of the leasing comb 11. As soon as the leasing comb 11 has reached the position P the guide elements 2 are guided over the aligning projections 14 of the leasing comb 11. In this manner an exact alignment of the interstices 3 with respect to the leasing interstices 13 is guaranteed. If the guide elements 2 are completely raised (see Figure 6c) the threads F run in the interstices 3 of the guide elements 2 and are thus leased into the guide elements.

The leasing comb 11 extends over the whole width of the device 1. Typically the width is 1.2 to 2 m. It is also conceivable to use individual, smaller leasing combs. The leasing comb 11 is for example designed for receiving 1,000 groups @ 16 threads. For this there are provided 1,000 second platelets 18 which alternately are arranged with 1,001 first platelets 17. The first and second platelets 17, 18 consist typically of steel and are for example manufactured by laser cutting or punched out. The thickness d of the second platelets 18 corresponds to the distance a between the first platelets 17 and simultaneously at least the thickness D between 2 individual elements of the guide elements 2, that is to say the width D of the interstices 3 (see Figure 8). The thickness of the first platelets 17 corresponds typically to the thickness of the lamellae of the guide elements.

Figure 8 shows in an enlarged representation how the threads F are transferred into the interstices 3 of the guide elements 2. The threads F lie on the rest surface 19 which is formed by the second platelets 18. The leasing interstices 13, the second platelets 18 and the interstices 13 of the guide elements are in alignment with one another. This is ensured by the aligning projections 14 which engage into the interstices 3. Thus it is guaranteed that the threads F are securely leased into the interstices 3.

The pin 23 prevents the threads F from jumping up out of the leasing interstices 13.

In Figure 7 there is schematically shown an alternative embodiment example of a leasing comb 51. The leasing comb 51 is designed as one piece. Into the leasing comb 51 there are milled leasing interstices 53 through which the threads F may be guided. On the one side of the leasing comb 51 into the leasing interstices 53 there are inserted projections 54 which serve for aligning the leasing comb 51 with respect to the guide elements.

Instead of individual aligning projections 14, 54 it is also conceivable to align the leasing comb 11, 51 with e.g. laterally arranged separate aligning elements on the guide elements 2. These aligning elements may for example be arranged laterally on the guide elements and on the leasing comb. It is however also conceivable to move the leasing comb 11, 51 on guides through the device 1. Such guides may likewise be provided in the device. Such guides permit a particularly stable movement of the leasing comb 11, 51.

Claims:

1. A method for leasing threads (F), in particular warp threads, into guide elements (2) of a treatment device (1) for treating the threads (F), in particular into combs or reeds of a sizing installation,

characterised in that the threads (F) are leased into at least one leasing comb (11) and fastened onto this and subsequently pulled with the leasing comb (11) through the treatment device (1),

wherein the threads (F) are transferred to the guide elements (2).

2. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the leasing comb (11) is pulled in steps through the device (1),

wherein the movement of the leasing comb (11) in each case after passing a guide element (2) is temporarily interrupted and

wherein the leasing comb (11) is positioned with respect to the guide element (2) before the threads (4) are transferred to the guide element (2).

3. A method according to one of the claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the guide elements before the leasing are removed out of the path (W) formed for the threads (F) in the treatment device, in particular are lowered, and that the guide elements (2) after passing the leasing comb (11) are moved back into the path (W) of the threads (F), wherein the threads (F) are taken up by the guide elements (2).

4. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 3, with a leasing comb (11) which comprises leasing interstices (13) for receiving the threads (4), whose arrangement corresponds to the arrangement of interstices (3) in the guide elements (2), and which is provided with aligning projections (14) which are in alignment with the leasing interstices (13), characterised in that the leasing comb (11) is aligned to the guide elements (2) in that the aligning projections (14) of the leasing comb (11) may be brought into engagement with the interstices (3) of the guide elements (2).

5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, characterised in that on moving back the guide elements (2) into the path (W) for the threads (F) the interstices (3) of the guide elements (2) are pushed over the aligning projections (14).
6. A method according to one of the claims 1 to 5, characterised in that leasing comb is fastened on residual threads (R) from a preceding treatment procedure and pulled with these through the treatment device (1).
7. An auxiliary device for leasing threads (F), in particular warp threads, into guide elements (2) of a device (1) for treating the threads (F), in particular into combs or reeds of a sizing installation, in particular for carrying out the method according to one of the claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the auxiliary device is formed as a leasing comb (11) with an arrangement (13, 15, 27) for the ordered fastening of the threads (F) on the leasing comb (11).
8. An auxiliary device according to claim 7, characterised in that the leasing comb (11) is provided with a plurality of leasing interstices (13) arranged next to one another, for receiving the threads (F).
9. An auxiliary device according to one of the claims 7 or 8, characterised in that the leasing comb comprises aligning elements (14; 4, 20) for aligning the leasing comb (11) onto the guide elements (2).
10. An auxiliary device according to claim 9, characterised in that the aligning elements are designed as aligning projections (14) which are aligned onto leasing interstices (13), preferably extend from these and which may be brought into engagement with the interstices (3) in the guide elements (2).
11. An auxiliary device according to one of the claims 9 or 10, characterised in that the leasing comb (11) is designed as a stack (16) of platelets (17, 18),

wherein first platelets are arranged at a distance (a) to one another for forming the leasing interstices (13) and

wherein second platelets (18) are arranged as distancers between the first platelets (17).

12. An auxiliary device according to claim 11, characterised in that the second platelets (18) form a rest surface (19) for threads (F) in the leasing interstices (13).

13. An auxiliary device according to one of the claims 11 or 12, characterised in that the second platelets (18) comprise projections (14) serving as aligning elements.

14. An auxiliary device according to one of the claims 7 to 13, characterised in that the leasing comb (11) comprises holding elements (20) for the temporary receiving and holding of the leasing comb (11) in receiving devices (4) allocated to the guide elements (2).

15. A treatment device for treating threads (F), in particular a device for sizing warp threads,

with at least one guide element (2), in particular with a comb or a reed, through which the threads (F) may be guided,

characterised in that to the device (1) there is allocated at least one leasing comb (11), in particular according to one of the claims 7 to 14,

on which the threads (F) are fastenable in an ordered manner and from which the threads (F) may be transferred by the guide elements (2).

16. A device according to claim 15, characterised in that to the guide elements (2) there is allocated at least in each case one receiving device (4) for the temporary holding of the leasing comb (11).

17. A device according to one of the claims 15 or 16, characterised in that the guide elements (2) are movable out of the formed path (W) for the threads (F), in particular lowerable.

18. A device according to one of the claims 15 to 16, characterised in that the device comprises at least two mounts (5, 5') for receiving warp beams, wherein the threads (F') of at least one mount (5) are leasable into a leasing comb (11), whilst the threads (F) of another mount (5) are guidable through the device (1).

Abstract

In order to lease threads (F), in particular warp threads into guide elements (2) of a handling device (1), such as combs or reeds, the threads (F) are first leased in sequence into a leasing comb (11) and are fixed thereto. The threads (F) are subsequently guided through the device (1) by means of the leasing comb (11). During this process, the threads (F) are taken up by the guide elements (2).

PRE2003/3

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION

As the inventor(s) named below, I/we declare that:

This declaration is directed to:

International application No. PCT/EP00/05532 filed on 15
June 2000

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MAY 23 2001
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
SCHELS
I/we believe I/we am/are the original and first inventor(s) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought;

I/we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims thereof, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above;

I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me/us to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the National or PCT International filing date of the continuation-in-part application, if applicable; and;

All statements made herein of my/our own knowledge are true, all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that the making of willful false statements or the like is punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: I/we hereby appoint Charles Winston Fallow, Reg. No. 28,946 as my/our attorney to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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